

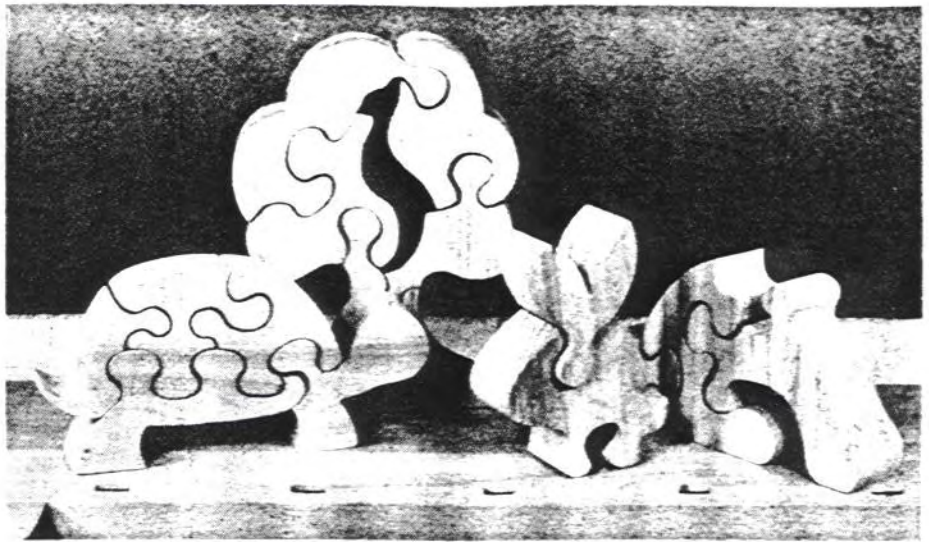
# Puzzles

Puzzles have always been popular with children — they are one of the few toys that come apart with no need to break them. The puzzles we have included here have one added attraction: They stand up on their own when your child pieces them together.

### Plan of Procedure

1. Glue up stock 1-1/2" thick or thicker. If you're making the Tortoise, your stock needs to be 11-1/2" x 6"; the Hare, 10" x 11-1/4"; the Partridge in a Pear Tree, 8-3/4" x 11-1/2". When making the partridge, consider using a contrasting color of wood. We have made a padouk partridge to roost in a poplar pear tree.

2. Cut out the contour of the puzzle.  
3. Using a saw with a thin blade, cut out the separate pieces of the puzzle. A bandsaw with a 3/16" or 1/8" blade works nicely; so does a coping saw or sabre saw with a scroll blade. If you use a jigsaw, keep the wood soft and the speed slow. Otherwise, the blade will warp in the wood and the pieces of the puzzle will not slide together smoothly.



Each piece of a stand-up puzzle should interlock with the adjoining pieces.

Using our puzzles as examples, you can design your own around your child's favorite animal or object. When cutting the pieces, take care that you use enough reverse curves or 'heads and necks' so that they all interlock.

